

# BC residents worry that renewal might erode their culture

*BC Exec was notified of renewal decision two hours before residents*

By Kaitlyn Hennacy, Zoe Anderson, and Zoe Sheill

Burton Conner residents are concerned that their dorm will lose its culture during its two-year renewal from June 2020 to August 2022. All residents will be required to move out during this time period.

"At this point, BC Exec has just been listening to what admins have said and trying to ask questions that residents will also have. So I think most of [the change] has just been imposed thus far," Alice Zhang '21,

Burton Conner president, said in an interview with *The Tech*.

BC Exec was not involved in formulating the move-out process, including the decision that students would move out in groups of eight, Zhang said. She noted that eight is already the maximum number of students that can apply to move in a group in the current housing switch lottery.

According to Zhang, BC Exec was notified of the decisions two

BC Renewal, Page 5



KEVIN LY—THE TECH

The MIT Ring Committee premieres the Brass Rat for the Class of 2021 Feb. 15.

# Dan Huttenlocher named the College of Computing's first dean

*Huttenlocher comes to MIT from Cornell, where he helped to found grad engineering and design school Cornell Tech*

By Emma Bingham  
SENIOR EDITOR

Dan Huttenlocher PhD '88, founding dean of Cornell Tech, has been named dean of the College of Computing.

Huttenlocher, whose name is pronounced "hut-in-locker," will visit MIT for the College of Computing Celebration next week, but he will not officially step into his new role until this summer.

Huttenlocher helped found both Cornell's School of Computer and Information Sciences and Cornell Tech, a graduate engineering and design school in New York City. He currently serves on the boards of directors at Amazon and Corning and chairs the board of the MacArthur Foundation.

In an interview with *The Tech*, Huttenlocher said he sees the College as having three main components.

The first is about computing fields and their evolution. Huttenlocher drew parallels between the current state of computing and the state of engineering at the founding of MIT.

There was "a lot of fluidity about what the disciplines were" in the mid to late 1800s, he said. "We're about to enter a very similar time period of figuring out what computing is and what the different disciplines are."

The second component involves what he calls "computing across the disciplines." Computing is becoming increasingly important across different fields, and MIT should lead this trend.

However, he doesn't believe computing will subsume the other departments at MIT, as some fear. Instead, over the next few decades, he said he expects it will become integrated into the curriculum, just as math is integrated into many different fields now.

"In many fields, there's really significant math there, and the math is different in different fields. I think over time, computing will become like that," he said. He added that MIT must take initiative in integrating computation into the curriculum. "We can't wait around for twenty years."

The third component of Huttenlocher's vision for the College is a focus on the societal impact of computing and AI. As chair of the MacArthur foundation board, he has advised the foundation on various issues related to technology and society, for example, in the Technology in the Public Interest group.

He views his job as dean partly as "making sure [the college] stays focused" on the societal issues around computing," though "exactly how

Dean, Page 2

# Vice President Kirk Kolenbrander to leave for new role at SNHU

*After 29 years at MIT, Kolenbrander will help lead recently formed SNHU college*

By Soomin Chun  
NEWS EDITOR

Vice President Kirk Kolenbrander is planning to leave the Institute in March after 29 years at MIT. His last day will be March 2. He will subsequently be serving as the executive vice president for the College of Engineering, Technology, and Aeronautics at the Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU).

Kolenbrander's started at MIT as an assistant professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering in 1990. During his career as a faculty member, he won the MIT Baker Award for Faculty Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the MIT Smith Award for Outstanding Faculty Contributions to Student Life.

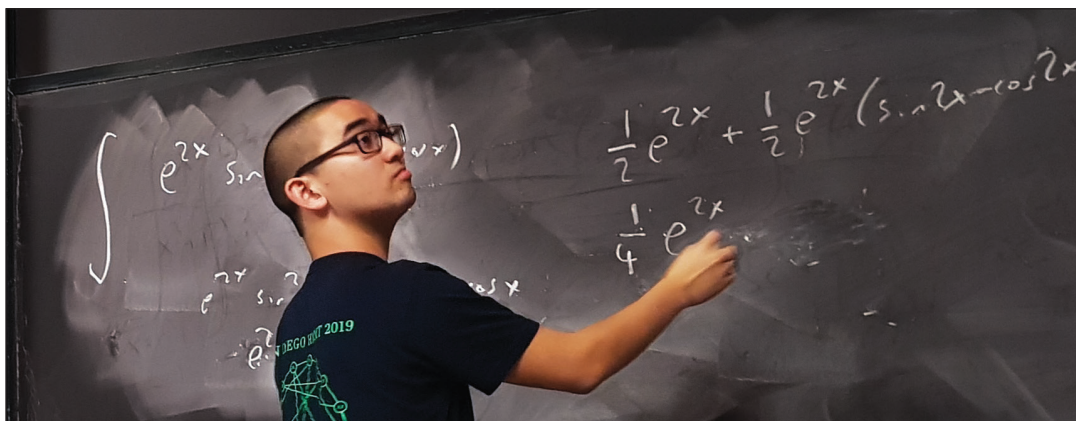
In 1995, Kolenbrander helped create the IAP program MIT Lead-

erShape, a leadership program that helps students "discern their leadership style" and offers them feedback on vision statements about changing the world, according to the program application portal.

After his time as a faculty member, Kolenbrander also served three MIT Presidents since 1998, having acted as special assistant to Chuck Vest, senior advisor and then vice president to Susan Hockfield, and most recently, vice president to current President L. Rafael Reif.

As part of MIT's leadership team, Kolenbrander played a key role in MIT's Presidential Search Committee that elected Hockfield and then managed searches to assemble her senior team, including appointing Reif as provost.

Vice President, Page 2



ASSEL ISMOLDAYEVA—THE TECH

A student competes in the Harvard-MIT Math Tournament Integration Bee Feb. 16.

## IN SHORT

Celebrations for the **MIT Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computing** are next week, Feb. 26–28. The schedule of events and other information is available at [helloworld.mit.edu](http://helloworld.mit.edu).

The application to **host prefrash for CPW** is now live. It is due March 23.

Sophomores, **ring sales** end Friday 4 p.m. Information is available at [brassrat2021.mit.edu](http://brassrat2021.mit.edu).

Final-term seniors, submit your **minor completion form** by Friday to avoid paying a \$50 late fee.

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Send news and tips to [news@tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@tech.mit.edu).

## DEATH BY COMMITTEE

The College of Computing working groups aren't putting ethics at the forefront of their work. **OPINION, p. 6**

## ALLOWING SWAMY TO SPEAK

MIT must guard freedom of expression. **OPINION, p. 7**

## THE POWER OF CONVERSATION

Deplatforming speakers like Swamy prevents the exchange and refinement of ideas. **OPINION, p. 7**

## CONFLICT IN YEMEN

Khashoggi's killing presents complications to the U.S. strategy towards the Middle East. **OPINION, p. 7**

## SECTIONS

Fun Pages . . . . . 3  
Opinion . . . . . 6



# Important lesson from Cornell experience is to be explicit about tensions between objectives, Huttenlocher said

Dean, from Page 1

that will manifest is a much bigger conversation,” he said.  
He also emphasized the importance of engaging people outside academia in the discussion of societal issues.  
“These issues are not just academic issues,” he said. “They’re issues that will benefit from further academic study, but I think if we’re just doing academic work, we’re not taking advantage of the full breadth

of people that we need to be working with.”  
Huttenlocher, who obtained a masters in EECS from MIT in 1984 and a PhD in CS from the precursor to CSAIL in 1988, has previously worked as a computer science professor at Cornell and a researcher at Xerox’s Palo Alto Research Center, and he co-founded a financial technology company called Intelligent Markets in the early 2000s.  
He has also served on two MIT visiting committees, one for Under-

graduate and Graduate Programs and the other for the MIT Media Lab.  
One of the biggest lessons he will take from his time as a Cornell administrator is “to try to be really explicit about what the objectives are and where the objectives might be in tension with one another,” Huttenlocher said.  
He already sees a tension between his first and second components — the idea that MIT needs to maintain both the depth of its

computer science research and the breadth of computer science applications in different fields.  
“An inherent tension is that every discipline in academia really needs to make sure that it’s preserving its disciplinary depth as judged by peers,” he explained. However, “the flip side is that computing has become so important to so many different areas of academia.”  
Next week, MIT will host a three-day celebratory event about the College of Computing, with speak-


ers including former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, World Wide Web creator Sir Tim Berners-Lee, and New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman. In May, working groups composed of faculty, staff, and students will produce a report on topics including the new college’s organizational structure, faculty appointments, curriculum and degrees, focus on social implications and responsibilities, and infrastructure.

## Kolenbrander wants to rethink STEM learning

Vice President, from Page 1

At SNHU, Kolenbrander will help the year-and-a-half-old college rethink how “engineering education and STEM education can be more effective, more accommodating, and

more inviting,” said SNHU President and CEO Paul LeBlanc, according to the Union Leader. LeBlanc also said Kolenbrander’s support in making STEM education accessible to underprivileged communities played a big role in his hiring.



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Tuna

Solution, page 5

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 5 |   |   |   |   | 4 |   |   |
|   | 6 |   | 5 |   |   |   |   | 9 |
|   | 7 | 9 |   | 1 | 4 |   |   |   |
|   | 9 | 2 | 4 |   | 1 |   |   | 8 |
|   |   |   | 7 | 9 | 6 |   |   |   |
| 1 |   |   | 2 |   | 8 | 5 | 9 |   |
|   |   |   | 1 | 2 |   | 7 | 8 |   |
| 5 |   |   |   |   | 3 |   | 1 |   |
|   |   | 8 |   |   |   |   | 2 |   |

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Peaches

Solution, page 5

|     |      |    |     |     |     |
|-----|------|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 12x | 120x |    |     | 1-  | 1-  |
|     | 1-   |    | 10x |     |     |
| 6   |      | 6x |     | 80x |     |
| 8+  |      |    | 1   |     | 18x |
|     | 2-   |    | 5+  |     |     |
|     | 24x  |    |     | 1-  |     |

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

T-Shirt Choices

Solution, page 5

ACROSS

- 1 Performers in a film
- 5 NBA officials
- 9 \_\_\_ and blood (kin)
- 14 Skunk’s defense
- 15 Vogue competitor
- 16 Spooky
- 17 Walk through water
- 18 Sweater material
- 19 Fridge forays
- 20 Humidifier or toaster
- 23 Folk tales
- 24 Crunchy sandwich, for short
- 25 Steak specification
- 30 Canoe implements
- 34 Pile up
- 35 Constricting snake
- 36 Narrow opening
- 37 Letters on a tach
- 38 Insignias
- 42 “\_\_\_ moment please . . .”
- 43 Amaze
- 45 “\_\_\_ you kidding?”
- 46 Motive

- 48 Overblown promotion
- 49 Something difficult to do
- 52 Gentle touch
- 54 Talks and talks
- 55 Diner inventory
- 62 Play a ukulele
- 63 Cameo shape
- 64 Taboo thing
- 65 Silly
- 66 Little taste
- 67 Typical Egyptian
- 68 Howled
- 69 Days before holidays
- 70 Allows

DOWN

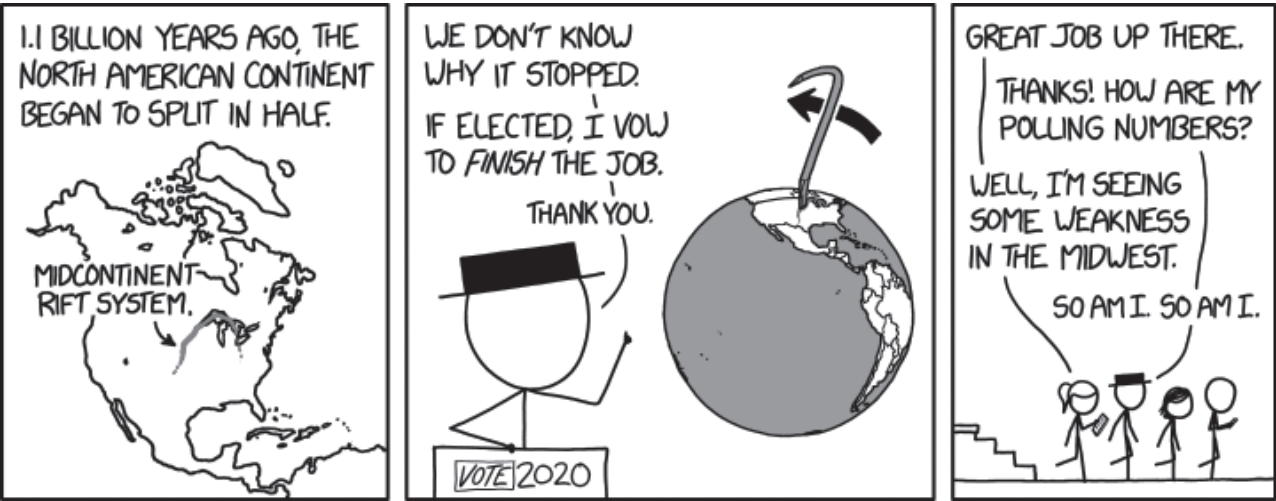
- 1 Dairy herd
- 2 Cain’s father
- 3 Carbonated drink
- 4 Garden lattice
- 5 Fix, as leftovers
- 6 One running off to wed
- 7 Failure of a film
- 8 Put on the market
- 9 Untamed

- 10 Crude shelters
- 11 Norse explorer
- 12 Ally (with)
- 13 Fathers and uncles
- 21 Dirty rat
- 22 Type of girder
- 25 Swampy land
- 26 Holding nothing
- 27 Obstruct, as a stream
- 28 More adept
- 29 Sushi spread
- 31 Vocally
- 32 Washer cycle
- 33 Ranch herd
- 39 Mediterranean island nation
- 40 Swimsuit top
- 41 Range of view
- 44 Faraway planet
- 47 Weapons cache
- 50 Whirl
- 51 Top-level Boy Scouts
- 53 Activated, as alarms
- 55 Sicilian spewer
- 56 Dental photo

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |    | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |    | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 |    |    |    |    | 15 |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |    |
| 17 |    |    |    |    | 18 |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |    |    |
| 20 |    |    |    | 21 |    |    |    |    | 22 |    |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 23 |    |    |    |    | 24 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 25 | 26 | 27 |    |    |    |    | 28 | 29 |    |    | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 |
| 34 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 35 |    |    |    | 36 |    |    |    |
| 37 |    |    |    | 38 | 39 | 40 |    |    |    | 41 |    | 42 |    |    |
| 43 |    |    | 44 |    | 45 |    |    |    |    | 46 | 47 |    |    |    |
| 48 |    |    |    |    | 49 |    |    | 50 | 51 |    |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 52 | 53 |    |    |    | 54 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|    | 55 | 56 |    |    |    |    | 57 | 58 |    |    |    | 59 | 60 | 61 |
| 62 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 63 |    |    |    | 64 |    |    |    |
| 65 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 66 |    |    |    | 67 |    |    |    |
| 68 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 69 |    |    |    | 70 |    |    |    |

- 57 Part of an ear
- 58 Tel \_\_, Israel
- 59 1990s veep
- 60 Swarming insect
- 61 Weeps noisily
- 62 Brother or sister, for short

[2103] Midcontinent Rift System



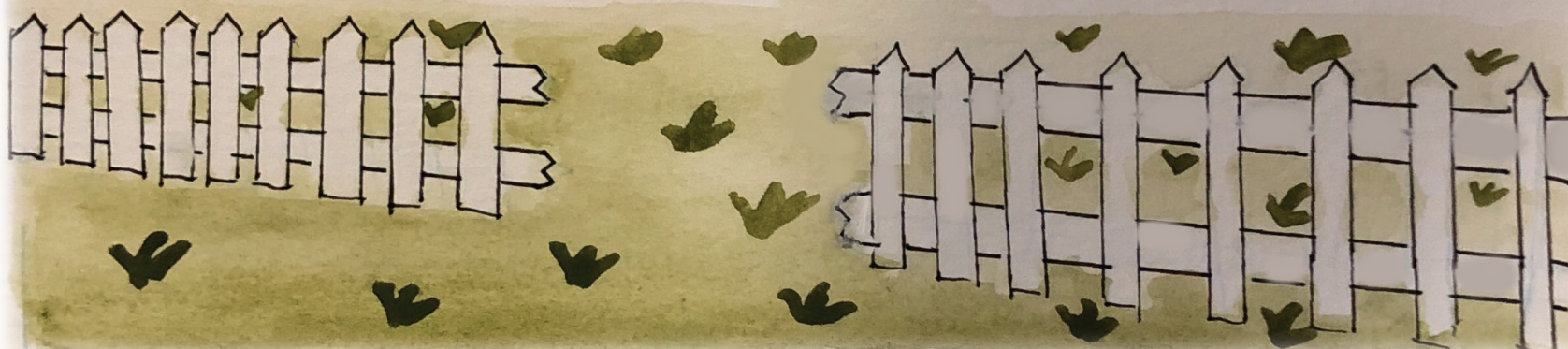
The best wedge issue is an actual wedge.



# Introduction to Real Analysis by Anshula Gandhi

What's so bad about sets with gaps?

Since irrational numbers exist, there must be 'gaps' in the rational line of numbers.



This gap is somewhat surprising, since it seems counterintuitive to the fact that rationals are densely packed. That is, between every two rational numbers, you can find another rational number (consider the number  $(p+q)/2$  that exists between rationals  $p$  and  $q$ ). So, given that rationals are so dense, it's surprising that we found a gap at the square root of two.



It's not only surprising, but also somewhat inconvenient that rationals have gaps.



Sets that don't have gaps (or 'complete' sets), such as the real line, are useful for building up calculus.\*



\*For example, we know that limits are a foundational concept in calculus. But a sequence might not have a limit in an incomplete set. For example, consider the sequence of rational numbers that slowly approaches  $\pi$ : 3, 3.1, 3.14, and so on. It will have no limit in the rationals (because its limit is  $\pi$ ).



# Resident: MIT should allow BC to live in New Vassar during renewal

BC Renewal, from Page 1

hours before BC residents were informed.

The Division of Student Life and BC Exec will work together this spring to assemble a transition team to identify student needs, provide input on the renewal of Burton Conner, and work through the logistics of relocating students, according to an FAQ document sent to BC residents.

In order to support residents, the administration has agreed to allow BC GRTs and Heads of House to continue to support the community and give BC leaders standing in the UA and DormCon during the renewal, according to the FAQ. The administration will also work with the transition team to develop community events.

“For the students who are going to go through this transition, two years is a very important piece of [their] experience at MIT, and so we don’t want [them] to feel like [they’re] in transition,” BC Head of House Janelle Knox-Hayes said at a BC community meeting the day after the renewal was announced.

The policies differ from those given to students in New House, who could apply to move with larger groups of people when New House was renovated. “Admin will always say that that was because they were in a crunch for New House and the pipes burst; it wasn’t a planned renovation,” Zhang said. In contrast, BC will have had 1.5 academic years to plan their transition.

Peter Williams ’21, a B3 (Burton third) resident, told *The Tech* in an interview that the administration could help preserve BC’s culture by allowing residents to move together to New Vassar and then back to BC after it reopens.

New Vassar is set to open in fall 2020. Some BC residents will be able to move to New Vassar, but not as one dorm-wide group. The FAQ emphasized that New Vassar is not intended to serve as a “swing dorm” for displaced students, as that would interfere with the dorm’s development of its own identity and culture.

The administration is “prioritizing a need to create new cultures,

because I honestly think they don’t want these ones — which is fine — but I just don’t like the lack of honesty about it,” Williams said.

Some residents are concerned about the loss of unique features of BC, such as suite style living. However, Senior Associate Dean of Housing and Residential Services David Friedrich said at the community meeting last Thursday, “There are — I think — certain restrictions in how [BC is] just laid out that we’re more likely than not to have suites in it” after the renewal.

Residents are also concerned that BC post-renewal may not allow murals painted directly on walls. According to Friedrich, the administration will look at ways to support creativity “when we’re in a newly repaired and improved building where we want to make sure we’re being good stewards of the facility.”

The DSL is “not really doing much at all to help the students from Burton Conner preserve their communities,” Wilson Spearman ’22, a resident of C2 (Conner two),



KEVIN LY—THE TECH

**Burton Conner will be closed** for renewal from June 2020 to August 2022. All residents must move out during this time.

told *The Tech* in an interview. “The DSL will make decisions, listen to students afterwards, and then not change the decision that they made based on the students’ input,” he said.

Anna Kooperberg ’21, a B4 (Burton four) resident, told *The Tech* that she thought that the administration does “care about students,” but that its different priorities sometimes conflict.

Austin Edelman ’21, a B2 (Burton two) resident, told *The Tech*

that he thought that the renewal was “sad but necessary.”

The Office of Campus Planning and Department of Facilities anticipate having an update on the scope of the work in the fall, Director of the Office of Campus Planning Jon Alvarez wrote in an email sent to *The Tech*.

The work could include updates to the roof, facade, mechanical and electrical systems, and plumbing, Friedrich told *The Tech* in an interview.

Solution to T-Shirt  
from page 3

|        |           |       |
|--------|-----------|-------|
| CAST   | REFS      | FLESH |
| ODOR   | ELLE      | EERIE |
| WADE   | WOOL      | RAIDS |
| SMALL  | APPLIANCE |       |
|        | LORE      | BLT   |
| MEDIUM | RARE      | OARS  |
| AMASS  | BOA       | SLIT  |
| RPM    | EMBLEMS   | ONE   |
| STUN   | ARE       | CAUSE |
| HYPE   | LARGE     | ORDER |
|        | PAT       | YAPS  |
| EXTRA  | LARGE     | EGGS  |
| STRUM  | OVAL      | NONO  |
| INANE  | BITE      | ARAB  |
| BAYED  | EVES      | LETS  |

Solution to Tuna  
from page 3

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 2 |
| 4 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 9 |
| 2 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| 7 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 |
| 3 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| 1 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 7 |
| 9 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| 5 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 4 |
| 6 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 5 |

Solution to Peaches  
from page 3

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| 5 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| 2 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 5 |

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AWARDS CONVOCATION



# College of Computing working groups are missing experts on ethics

**By Mark Goldman**

But as I asked myself, “Who is not at the table?,” my cynicism grew. Of the 100+ committee members listed, not one comes from the Office of Religious, Spiritual, and Ethical Life, which recently had its name changed to emphasize its role as an ethical resource and provides support for individuals and the entire Institute. During her inauguration last year as the Chaplain of the Institute, Reverend Kirstin Boswell-Ford said, “We are here to help guide the MIT community toward being more inclusive, more caring, more supportive, and more ethically minded.” Excluding experts who grapple with difficult, ethical questions through their daily

When answering a question about the act of separating ethics into its own working group, Schmidt mentioned that the co-chairs of the working groups would have regular meetings, so that ethical considerations can be raised to other committees. This idea sounded nice, but it still doesn't ensure ethics is truly integrated into the other meetings.

Just like the #MeToo movement provided a critical mass of survivors with the confidence to drive change, the CoC provides us with an opening to demand MIT act ethically. Investing your time in this endeavor could not be more valuable. Ensuring MIT fulfills its commitment to ethics over the next year will impact humanity for generations. Take a moment, think of a way MIT could be more ethical, and share it on the idea bank. If administrators don't promise this semester that they will do what you suggest, ask them why. Then refine your understanding of the issue. Then ask them again. If they still don't listen, call them out publicly. And continue to ask until MIT commits to the ethical promises they made when announcing the CoC.

Mark Goldman is a graduate student in the MIT Department of Chemical Engineering.



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# Explore: The Student Experience

## Computing Exposition

Tuesday, February 26  
2:00–4:30 pm  
Charles M. Vest Student  
Street, Building 32 &  
Building 76 Lobby

Bubble Tea, Popcorn,  
and Snacks

## Perspectives from Luminaries—A Panel on Computing and Cognition

Tuesday, February 26  
5:00–6:30 pm  
Huntington Hall, Building 10-250

*Opportunities and challenges of  
interdisciplinary work in both research  
and industry*

Barbara Liskov, Pattie Maes, Jaime  
Teevan, Laura Schulz, Jeanette Wing

Reception to Follow

## A.M. Turing Award Panel

Wednesday, February 27  
5:30–7:00 pm  
Kresge Auditorium,  
Building W16

Reception to Follow

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